

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 EB-11 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 119283

R 020001Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1747

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA SEVEN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, PFOR, AS

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN'S VISIT TO ADELAIDE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN PAID THEIR FIRST VISIT TO ADELAIDE ON SEPT 18 AND 19. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE, ATTENDED A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE U.S. CONSULAR AGENT, VISIT THE NEW FESTIVAL HALL, AND HAD DINNER AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR GREEN ARRIVED IN ADELAIDE THE MORNING OF SEPT 18 AND PAID HIS FIRST CALL UPON THE CHIEF JUSTICE, DR. JOHN J. BRAY, WHO RECEIVED HIM IN HIS CENTURY-OLD CHAMBERS, IMPRESSIVE IN HIS WIG AND COURT DRESS OF SCARLET SATIN, WHITE CUMMERBUND AND STIFF COLLAR. THE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON DIFFERENCES IN AUSTRALIAN, AMERICAN AND ENGLISH JURISPRUDENCE AND, PARTICULARLY, THE PROBLEMS OF INTERPRETATION OF CERTAIN PARTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION, SUCH AS THE FAMOUS "TRADE BETWEEN THE STATES SHALL BE FREE" CLAUSE.

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EM THE AMBASSADOR NEXT CALLED ON THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

DON DUNSTAN, WHO, IN A MEETING PLANNED FOR ONLY 30 MINUTES, BECAUSE OF HIS OWN TIGHT SCHEDULE, EXTENDED IT TO 45 MINUTES AND THEN ONLY RELUCTANTLY SAID GOODBYE UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS AIDES. MR. DUNSTAN WAS EXTREMELY CANDID AND FORTHCOMING IN HIS REMARKS, PARTICULARLY AS AN ALP MEMBER WHEN CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT IN CANBERRA FOR CHANGING IN THE NEW FEDERAL BUDGET THE TAX PAYMENT PROCEDURES FOR WINE PRODUCERS FROM TIME OF SALE TO A YEARLY BASIS: THIS, THE PREMIER SAID, WOULD COST SO MUCH THAT MOST SMALL FIRMS WOULD BE FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS. HE WAS ALSO DISTURBED BY THE BUDGET RECLASSIFYING BRANDY INTO THE SAME CATEGORY AS WHISKEY AND LIQUOR, THEREBY CONSIDERABLY INCREASING THE TAXES AND DUTIES ON THE PRODUCT. SINCE 80 PERCENT OF AUSTRALIA'S BRANDY IS MADE IN THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA THIS RECLASSIFICATION AND THE PRECEDING TAX CHANGE WOULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE HARDSHIP, IF IMPLEMENTED.

4. THE PREMIER WAS ALSO UPSET AT THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A POSTPONEMENT IN FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE DARTMOUTH DAM. THE DAM IMPOUNDS TRIBUTARIES OF THE MURRAY RIVER, AND, THOUGH LOCATED IN VICTORIA, VITALLY AFFECTS SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS WELL AS NEW SOUTH WALES. NO CONSULTATION WITH ANY OF THE CONCERNED PARTIES WAS MADE, COMPELLING MR. DUNSTAN TO PERSONALLY FIGHT FOR, AND OBTAIN A REVERSAL OF THE FEDERAL POSTPONEMENT, BECAUSE IT SO BLATANTLY INTERFERED WITH A DECISION ARDUOUSLY REACHED, OVER MANY YEARS OF POLITICAL CONTROVERSY, BY THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE OTHER STATES. IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD DENIED BACKING, IT WOULD HAVE KILLED AN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY PROJECT.

5. A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN AND ANNOYANCE WAS ALSO EXPRESSED BY THE PREMIER OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERFERENCE, PARTICULARLY BY THE MINISTER FOR MINERALS AND ENERGY, REX CONNOR, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COOPER BASIN NATURAL GAS DISCOVERIES. THE MAJOR PROJECT WAS THE REDCLIFFS PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX, WHICH WAS BEING HELD UP SOLELY BY MR. CONNOR'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE EXPORT OF LPG, A VITAL ELEMENT NEEDED TO MAKE THE WHOLE PROJECT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE. ACCORDING TO MR. DUNSTAN, THE REDCLIFFS PROJECT WAS VITAL BECAUSE IT WOULD PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO PORT PIRIE, AN AREA WHICH IS RAPIDLY LOSING ITS ECONOMIC VIABILITY BECAUSE OF THE PHASING OUT OF MOST OF THE BROKEN HILL MINES OVER THE NEXT TEN OR TWENTY YEARS. THE PREMIER SAID HE WAS PLANNING TO BRING ALL THESE ISSUES TO A HEAD IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, BY GOING TO CANBERRA AND CONFRONTING MR. CONNOR AND THE PRIME MINISTER, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY RELIEF. HE IMPLIED, BUT DID NOT STATE CATEGORICALLY, THAT HE WOULD TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES WERE NECESSARY, EVEN IF IT MEANT BREAKING THE NORMAL SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE TWO LABOR GOVERNMENTS.

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6. THE MEETING WITH THE PREMIER WAS FOLLOWED BY A CALL ON THE LORD MAYOR OF ADELAIDE AND A TOUR OF THE TOWN HALL, INCLUDING ITS VARIOUS FUNCTION ROOMS AND THE HISTORICAL MEMORABILIA CONCERNING THE CITY.

7. A SMALL INFORMAL LUNCHEON, HOSTED BY THE U.S. CONSULAR AGENT IN ADELAIDE, MR. TOM MANUEL, PROVIDED THE AMBASSADOR WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND TALK TO VARIOUS STATE BUSINESS, PRESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS. ONLY A FEW INFORMAL REMARKS WERE MADE, BUT THE OCCASION WAS INVALUABLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY IT PRESENTED TO MAKE SO MANY PERSONAL CONTACTS. FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON, A PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD, HEAVILY ATTENDED BY ALL THE MEDIA, PRODUCING ONLY NON-CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS FROM AN OBVIOUSLY FRIENDLY GROUP.

8. ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. GREEN, THE AMBASSADOR TOURED THE NEWLY OPENED FESTIVAL HALL, WHICH INCLUDES A CONCERT AUDITORIUM AND OPERA HOUSE MUCH PRAISED BY ART CRITICS, FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE CITY. LATER, THE AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN WERE GUESTS OF THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND LADY OLIPHANT AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, AND THAT EVENING WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A DINNER AT WHICH THE LT. GOVERNOR, WALTER L. CROCKER, ACTED AS HOST BECAUSE THE GOVERNOR, SIR MARK OLIPHANT, WAS ILL. LADY OLIPHANT WAS HOSTESS FOR THE GUESTS, WHO WERE REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNITY LEADERS.

9. DEPARTURE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA TOOK PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 19.

10. THE VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND IT WAS MOST APPARENT THAT AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN MADE AN IMPRESSIVE IMPACT ON ALL THE PEOPLE THEY MET. PRESS REACTION WAS FRIENDLY AND INVITATIONS WERE EXTENDED TO RETURN IN MARCH 1974 FOR THE BIENNIAL ADELAIDE FESTIVAL, ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPORTANT CULTURAL EVENTS.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER05400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731055/aaaaboia.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN'S VISIT TO ADELAIDE
TAGS: ECON, AS
To: SECSTATE WASHDC MELBOURNE SYDNEY
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005